



St Mary's RC Primary School: British Values Mission Statement



At St Mary's we understand the importance of helping our pupils to develop academically, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, so that they are fully prepared for life in British society and for their roles as good citizens in our community and in the wider world. As a Catholic school, we have Christian values at the heart of everything we do. These Catholic, Christian values not only incorporate 'British Values', but also go much further than that, as they trace back to the teachings of Jesus Christ. St Mary's provides a rich, broad and balanced curriculum, recognising that every person is unique and is created by God in his own image. We teach our pupils what it means to live good lives, drawing on the examples of Jesus and his welcome and inclusion of all.

Guided by our mission statement ***'A Christian ethos lies at the heart of St Mary's School community, with particular emphasis being placed upon the nurturing in each child of a knowledge and love of the Catholic faith. We foster relationships which reflect our values and attitudes of care, respect and trust between children, staff, governors, parents and parishioners. We strive to enable each child to grow; aspiring to excellence and beyond the limits of potential.'*** We help each other to flourish, valuing individuality and difference within our community and respecting the calling to work together in the service of others. Our Catholic ethos fully supports the government's view of the British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

Examples of this are as follows:

Democracy – We have a school council, our pupils vote for Head Boy & Head Girl and 'pupil voice' is part of our recruitment process. Our pupils are listened to by staff and their peers.

The Rule of Law - Rules and their importance are emphasised and understood. We have school rules and our children understand the importance of following them and treating each other with respect. We have a clear, structured behaviour policy rooted in a Rights Respecting culture. Our assemblies focus on the difference between right and wrong. We have strong links with our parish, the local fire service and the local police.

Individual Liberty – Where possible, our children are encouraged to be independent in their learning and in their choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. Pupils have key roles and responsibilities and wear badges signifying these roles and responsibilities with pride. They are taught how to exercise their personal freedoms safely, for example through the teaching of E-Safety.

Mutual Respect – Our PHSE curriculum teaches the value of mutual respect through learning about relationships and being a responsible citizen. We actively promote equality and fairness and our School Mediators, Smile Squad and Year 6/Reception Buddy schemes promote mutual respect between pupils across all phases of our school.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs - Through our RE curriculum and our International links our pupils experience a connection with other faiths, cultures and beliefs which includes an understanding of and respect for people of other religions, cultures and lifestyles. We encourage admissions from all those entitled to education under British Law, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender or financial status. Whilst strong in our Catholicity, we recognise the multicultural, multi-faith nature of the United Kingdom and understand the role our school plays in promoting tolerance and understanding.

